

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of oligorhamnosides, wherein it comprises the following successive steps:

- a) self-condensation of rhamnose in a single reaction step in acetonitrile in the presence of an acid catalyst and precipitation of the oligorhamnosides thus formed; then
- b) recovery by filtration of the precipitate obtained following step a) comprising the oligorhamnosides.

2.(Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the reaction mixture, during step a), lies between 20 °C and 120 °C, ~~advantageously between 35 °C and 75 °C.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is chosen from the group comprised of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, ortho-, meta- and para-toluenesulfonic acid, benzene-sulphonic acid, substituted benzene-sulphonic acids, methane-sulphonic acid, Lewis acids, ~~in particular zinc chloride and ferric chloride~~, clay acids, ~~in particular montmorillonite K-10~~, synthetic resin acids, zeolites and combinations thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the water formed during the self-condensation reaction of step a) is eliminated physically or chemically.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the water elimination technique comprises the use of a desiccation agent chosen among the group consisting of the carbonates, the sulfates, calcium chloride, phosphorus pentoxide, the molecular sieves or combinations of these various desiccation agents.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein step a) is carried out at atmospheric pressure and under atmosphere of an inert gas, ~~such as argon or nitrogen.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein step a) is carried out at reduced pressure, in an autoclave.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein prior to step b), the reaction mixture is cooled to a temperature in the range between the condensation reaction temperature and 0 °C.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the reaction mixture is cooled to ambient temperature, ~~advantageously to 20 °C.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the precipitate recovered following step b) is washed with acetonitrile.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the acetonitrile included in the filtrate obtained following step b) is evaporated in order to recover a second precipitate containing oligorhamnosides.

12. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a mixture of oligorhamnosides obtainable by a method according to claim 1, wherein the aforementioned oligorhamnosides contain from 2 to 12 rhamnose motifs, ~~advantageously from 2 to 9 rhamnose motifs.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 12, wherein the distribution of oligorhamnosides as a function of their degree of polymerization roughly follows a Poisson distribution.

14. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 12, wherein the rhamnose motifs have up to three of their hydroxyl functions implicated in the formation of glycosidic bonds.

15. (Previously Presented) A medicament containing a composition as defined in claim 12.

16. – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The medicament according to claim 15, wherein it contains from 0.001% to 50% by weight of oligorhamnosides.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for the ~~cosmetic~~ treatment of skin and/or mucous membranes that are sensitive, irritated, intolerant, of an allergic tendency, aged, exhibiting danger signs, exhibiting a disorder of the cutaneous barrier, exhibiting cutaneous redness or exhibiting a non-pathological immunological imbalance related to intrinsic, extrinsic or hormonal aging, wherein it consists of applying to the skin and/or the mucous membranes of a patient in need thereof a composition according to claim 12.

26. (Currently Amended) A The method of ~~cosmetic treatment~~ to slow the natural aging of the skin and/or to prevent the accelerated aging of skin subjected to external attacks, ~~in particular to prevent photo-induced aging of the skin~~, wherein it consists of applying to the skin of a patient in need thereof a composition according to claim 12.

27. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein the temperature of the reaction mixture, during step a), lies between 35°C and 75 °C.

28. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the acid catalyst is a Lewis acid chosen from the group comprised of zinc chloride and ferric chloride.

29. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the acid catalyst is a clay acid chosen from the group comprised of montmorillonite K-10.

30. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein step a) is carried out under atmosphere of argon or nitrogen.

31. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the reaction mixture is cooled to 20°C.

32. (New) The composition according to claim 12, wherein said oligorhamnosides contains from 2 to 9 rhamnose motifs.

33. (New) A method for regulate inflammatory mechanisms comprising the administration of the composition according to claim 12 to a patient in need thereof.

34. (New) The method according to claim 33 for the prevention or treatment of allergic, inflammatory or immune reactions or pathologies of the skin and/or mucous membranes.

35. (New) The method according to claim 33 for the inhibition of immune response related to inflammatory stress.

36. (New) The method according to claim 33 to inhibit leukocyte activation, secretion of keratinocytic cytokines, keratinocytic hyperplasia phenomenon, antigen processing by the dendritic cells of the skin, maturation of antigen-presenting cells, and recognition phenomenon between lymphocytes and antigen-presenting cells.

37. (New) The method according to claim 33 for prevention or treatment of diseases chosen from the group comprised of a topic and/or contact eczema, inflammatory dermatoses, irritant dermatitis, acne, autoimmune diseases such as psoriasis, photo-immunosuppression, vitiligo, pityriasis, sclerodermas, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease and graft rejection.

38. (New) The method according to claim 33 for prevention and treatment of age-related chronic inflammatory problems and their consequences.

39. (New) The method according to claim 33 for prevention or treatment of diseases chosen from the group comprised of anaphylactic sensitivities, pigmentary anomalies of the skin, dermal hypervascularity and inflammatory fissuring.

40. (New) The method according to claim 33 to reduce the allergenic and/or irritant character of a composition or perfume.

41. (New) The method according to claim 26 to prevent photo-induced aging of the skin.